



**House Transportation Committee
Testimony in Support of HB-4861
Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

Good morning Chairman O'Malley and Committee members. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of House bill 4861.

On September 30, 2019, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration amended 49 CFR Part 391 Subpart E - Physical Qualifications and Examinations, Section § 391.46 *Physical qualification standards for an individual with diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control*. The amendment allows an individual with diabetes controlled by insulin injection to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle, e.g., school bus, *interstate*.

From 1986 until September 30, 2019, the Michigan State School Board of Education through the *School Code* and then the Michigan legislation, via MCL 257.1853, allowed an individual with diabetes controlled by insulin injection to operate a school bus, *intrastate*. An individual was required to complete a personal medical survey, medical evaluation by his/her personal physician, and a medical examination by a state approved doctor. In addition, an individual had to go before and receive medical approval from the Michigan State Police Waiver Board.

The federal regulation follows a similar process. A would-be school bus driver is required to complete a medical screening survey, undergo a medical evaluation from his or her treating physician, and successfully complete a medical examination by a FMCSA certified medical examiner. Only then will an individual be granted medical approval to operate a CMV, school bus, and must annually renew that approval.

There is no longer a need for Michigan to have a legal medical exemption for an individual to operate a school bus. "*Cleaning up*" MCL 257.1853 will avoid confusion and clarify remaining medical requirements stated in the law. It will have the positive intended consequence of broadening the pool of recruits for desperately needed school bus drivers.

I urge all committee members to vote in favor of moving HB-4861 out of the House Transportation Committee with recommendation for passage by the full House of Representatives.

Submitted by,

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Howard "Mac" Dashney, Chairperson
Legislation Committee
Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation
h.dashney@comcast.net
517.420.2856